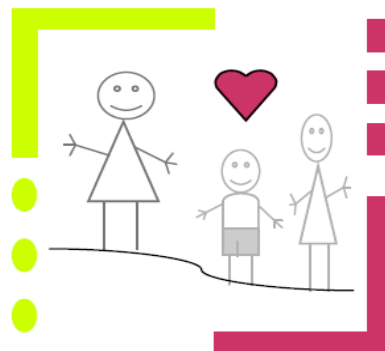


*If you have additional
questions regarding this
pamphlet or other questions
regarding child safety,
please contact:*

*Jefferson County Human
Services Department
1541 Annex Road
Jefferson WI 53549
(920)674-3105*

*The following is an
informational pamphlet
prepared by the Jefferson
County Citizen Review
Panel. It is intended to
provide basic information
and guidelines for residents
of Jefferson County.*



Reporting Concerns of Child Abuse & Neglect



A List of Frequently Asked Questions

If you know a child has been abused or neglected, or if you suspect maltreatment, you should report your concerns to your local Human Services Department or Law Enforcement Agency. If you are unsure whether to report your concerns, you can call and discuss the situation with the Access Worker at Human Services. It takes every member in the community to ensure children are safe, so please don't hesitate to call. Anyone can make a report but the more detailed information you have, the more thorough the screening process can be.

Will My Report Be Confidential?

State law protects reporter confidentiality. Human Services will not disclose your name to the individuals whom you report. In rare cases, reporter information can be revealed in the context of court proceedings.

What Happens After I Report?

The Access Worker will ask detailed questions about your concerns, including the family's demographic information, so please be prepared with this information. The more specific you are about the concerns, the more effective our intervention can be.

After the report is received Child Protective Services (CPS) will use the information, along with any previous history of reports regarding the family, in order to determine the best course of action. If it's determined that the report does not meet the legal standards of child maltreatment or threat of maltreatment to warrant CPS intervention, the family may still be referred for appropriate services, such as counseling or parenting skills classes.

If a case is open for CPS intervention, the family is interviewed and assessed by an Initial Assessment Worker. State Standards require that contact be made with the family no later than 5 Business Days. If safety concerns are identified, action is taken to ensure child safety, which can include in-home services and/or custody proceedings.

Will I Learn What Happens?

If you are a Mandated Reporter (ex. medical provider, school staff, mental health professional), you will receive feedback with basic information regarding the screening decision and case outcome. You will not receive feedback if you are a Non-Mandated

Reporter (ex. relative, neighbor, friend), as state law prohibits this breach of family confidentiality.

What Concerns Warrant Intervention?

CPS intervention is only warranted when there is a report that a child may be unsafe, abused or neglected, or be at risk of maltreatment, as defined in Wisconsin State Statutes and CPS Standards. Families have the right to parent their children as they choose so if the reported allegations, even if true, would not meet the statutory definition of abuse or neglect and do not describe behavior or conditions that constitute a threat of maltreatment, then CPS cannot provide intervention.

Can I Withhold Contact Between The Child And The Alleged Maltreating Parent or Caregiver?

There are situations and circumstances in which CPS will direct that contact between the child and the alleged maltreater be prevented in order to ensure child safety. All other situations would require a Court Order or other legal grounds. Questions and concerns regarding this issue can be discussed with the Access Worker at the time of report.